

Colonel Richard A. Harrison



Colonel Richard A. Harrison assumed responsibility as the 44th Commandant of the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School and as the Chief of Air Defense Artillery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, on Aug. 20, 2020. His prior assignment was the Executive Officer to the Commanding General of UNC/CFC/USFK.

A native of North Carolina, COL Harrison was commissioned as an Air Defense Artillery Officer in 1994 from Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) in Elizabeth City, NC. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from ECSU, a Master of Arts in Policy Management from Georgetown University, and a Master of Science in Strategic Military Studies from the United States Army War College.

COL Harrison's military education includes the ADA Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC), and the United States Army War College (USAWC).

COL Harrison's first duty station was Fort Campbell, KY, where he served as an Avenger/Stinger Platoon Leader and Battery Executive Officer in 2-44 Air Defense Artillery (ADA) from April 1995 to May 1998. He later served at Schofield Barracks, HI as the Deputy Assistant Division Air Defense Officer for the 25th ID (Light), Battalion S-1/Adjutant and Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-62 ADA from December 1998 to December 2001. He later assumed command of Charlie Battery, 1-62 ADA, in Fort Lewis, Washington, from February 2002 to March 2003.

COL Harrison served as an Army Intern in the Immediate Office of the Secretary of Defense from May 2003 to May 2004. And from May 2004 to June 2006, he served as a Strategic Planner and Executive Officer for the Army Initiatives Group in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7. Also during this time, he deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) serving in numerous positions at the headquarters for Military Transition Teams in Iraq. Upon graduation from Georgetown University, COL Harrison was stationed at Fort Bragg, NC and served as the Executive Officer for 3-4 Air Defense Artillery Regiment (ADAR) from June 2007 to June 2009. After graduating from CGSC, he returned to Fort Bragg and served as the Deputy Commanding Officer for the 108th ADA Brigade and later the Battalion Commander for 3-4 ADAR from June 2010 to May 2013. He deployed with elements of his battalion to the CENTCOM AOR in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

Following graduation from the U.S. Army War College, COL Harrison deployed to Doha, Qatar, where he served as the Assistant Chief of Staff G-3 (Forward) for the 32d Army Air Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) from June 2014 to March 2015 in support of OEF.

COL Harrison commanded the 69th ADA Brigade at Fort Hood, TX, from June 2015 to June 2017. While serving in brigade command, COL Harrison deployed with elements of his brigade to the CENTCOM AOR in support of OEF. In June 2017, COL Harrison relinquished command and was immediately assigned to the Joint Staff, Pentagon. During his tenure on the Joint Staff, COL Harrison served as the Division Chief for the Protection Division, Joint Staff J-3 and later as the Executive Assistant/Executive Officer to the Joint Staff J-3 from June 2017 to June 2019.

His military awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal (1 OLC), the Legion of Merit Medal, the Bronze Star Medal (2 OLC), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (5 OLC), the Army Commendation Medal (1 OLC), the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal (2 OLC), the National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Ribbon, the Korean Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon (w/ numeral 4), the Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge, the Joint Staff Identification Badge, the Army Staff Identification Badge, the Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, and German and Uruguayan Airborne Wings.

COL Harrison is married to the former Tyra Jones of Navassa, North Carolina and they have three children, Aliyah (23), Alexa (19), and Collin (14).